

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of walk test in an alarm system, comprising the steps of:
 setting up a communications channel between a control panel and a tester;
 triggering a test condition, by the tester, in a device;
 at the control panel, detecting the triggered test condition; and
 returning to the tester over the communications channel an indication of a location
 of the device.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the indication is a direct identification of the
location of the device.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the communications channel comprises a wireless
connection.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the location indication is returned by:
 converting a control panel label to a voice stream or textual message; and
 transmitting the voice stream or textual message to the tester over the
 communications channel.
5. The method of claim 1, which further includes:
 the tester transmitting over the communications channel a response to the location
 indication; and
 storing the response in a storage device, and associating the response with the
 device tested.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the response comprises at least one of: a voice
stream and a textual message.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the storage device is a computer.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the test condition is an alarm condition.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the test condition is a trouble condition.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of automatically returning to the tester over the communications channel the indication of the location of the device further includes returning an address of the device to the tester.
11. The method of claim 1, which further includes:
 - the tester transmitting over the communications channel a response to the location indication of the device;
 - a storage device for storing the response, and associating the response with the device tested.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the response comprises at least one of: a voice stream, and a textual message.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the storage device is a computer.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of setting up a communications channel between the control panel and the tester includes:
 - connecting a computer with the control panel;
 - connecting a first communications device with the computer; and
 - connecting a second communications device with the first communications device.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the communications device comprises at least one of: a two-way radio, cellular phone, paging transmitter, and an email connection.

16. An alarm system for walk test, comprising:
 - a plurality of alarm devices adapted to be triggered by a tester to activate a test condition;
 - a control panel;
 - a communications channel between the control panel and the tester;
 - an address of the device in the test condition being detected by the control panel, and an indication of a location of the device being returned to the tester over the communications channel.
17. The alarm system of claim 16, wherein the indication is a direct identification of the location of the device.
18. The alarm system of claim 16, wherein the communications channel comprises a wireless connection.
19. The alarm system of claim 16, wherein a direct identification is returned by:
 - a voice stream or textual message converted from a control panel label; and
 - a transmitter for transmitting the voice stream or textual message to the tester over the communications channel.
20. The alarm system of claim 16, further comprising:
 - a response to the location indication transmitted by the tester over the communications channel;
 - a storage device for storing the response, and associating the response to the device tested.
21. The alarm system of claim 20, wherein the response is either a voice stream or textual message.

22. The alarm system of claim 20, wherein the storage device is a computer.
23. The alarm system of claim 16, wherein the test condition is an alarm condition.
24. The alarm system of claim 16, wherein the test condition is a trouble condition.
25. The alarm system of claim 16, wherein the indication of the location of the device further comprises an address of the device.
26. The alarm system of claim 16, further comprising a storage device for storing a response transmitted by the tester over the communications channel, and for associating the response with the device tested.
27. The alarm system of claim 26, wherein the response comprises at least one of: a voice stream, and a textual message.
28. The alarm system of claim 26, wherein the storage device is a computer.
29. The alarm system of claim 16, wherein the communications channel between a control panel and a tester includes:
 - a computer in connection with the control panel;
 - a first communications device in connection with the computer; and
 - a second communications device in connection with the first communications device.
30. The alarm system of claim 29, wherein the communications device comprises at least one of: a two-way radio, cellular phone, paging transmitter, and an email connection.

31. A alarm system for walk test, comprising:
- communications means for communicating between a control panel and a tester;
 - means for triggering a test condition in a device by the tester;
 - means for detecting the triggered test condition by the control panel; and
 - means for returning to the tester over the communications means an indication of the location of the device.